

ABLE'S STORY OF STORIES

Early in infancy, the socialization process begins for everyone. As people grow they begin learning the shaping of their personal life story. Some people learn to have more influence on their evolving life than others. Personal stories can grow in many directions.

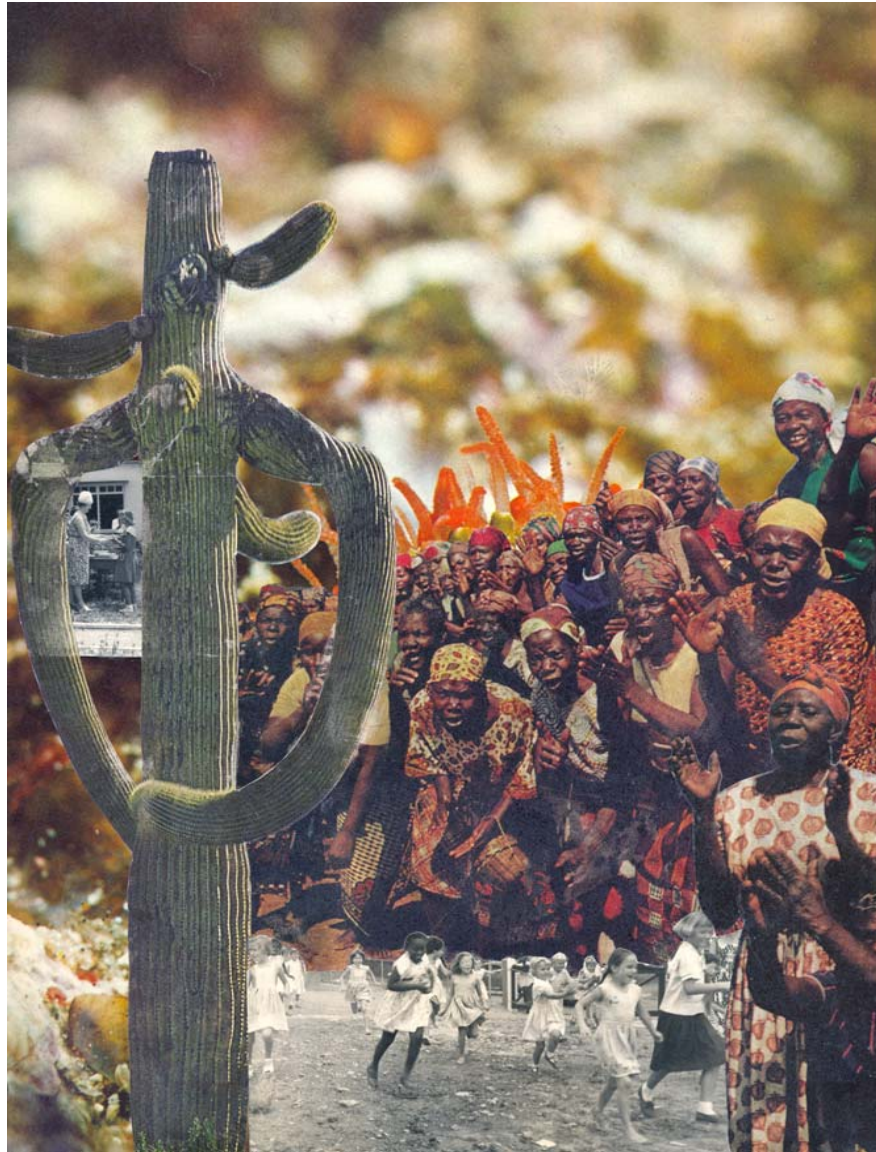


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Lives are influenced by where people are born,



and what cultural influences they have.



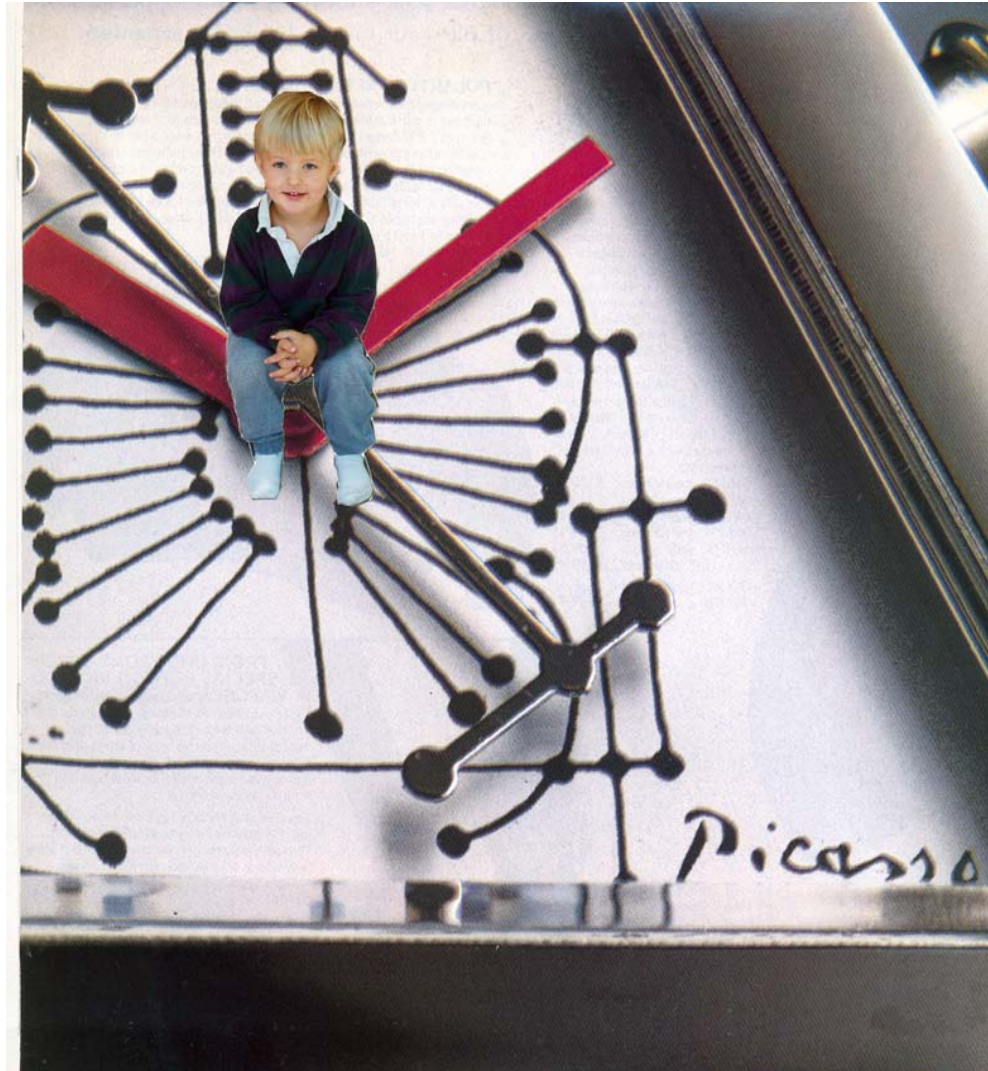
Individual lives can be as rich and out of this world as one can imagine



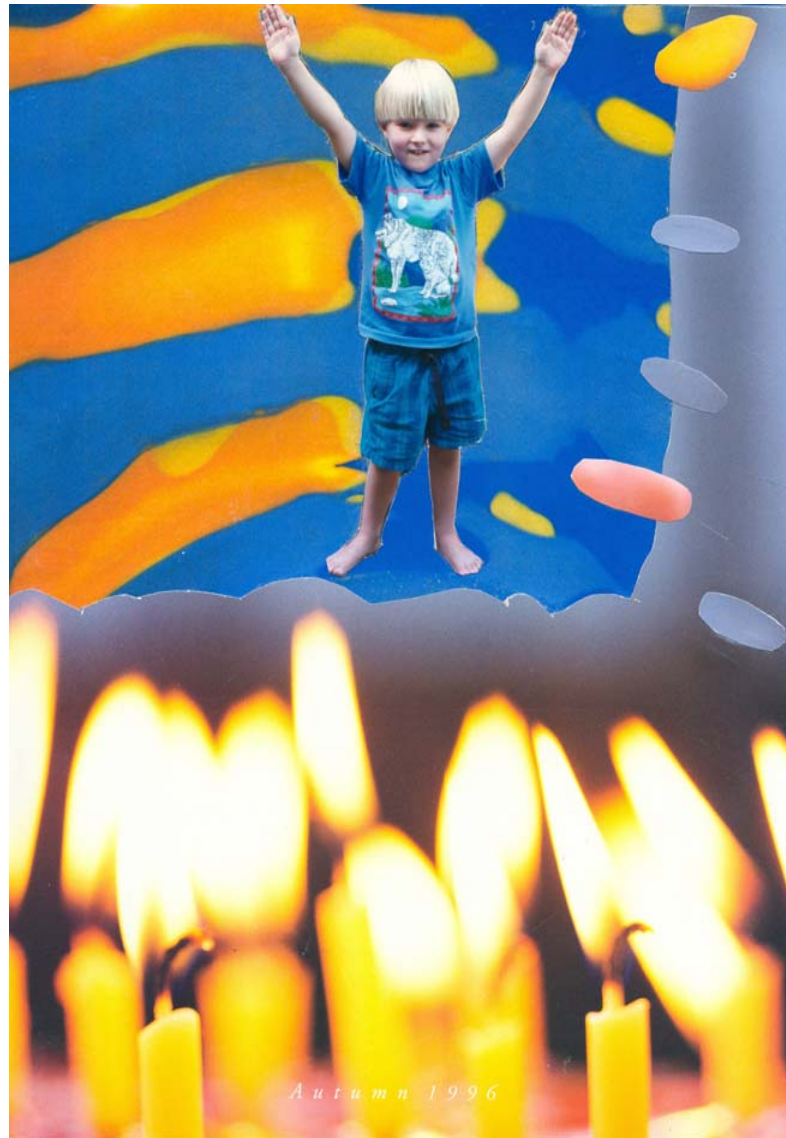
and follow paths leading into the unknown.



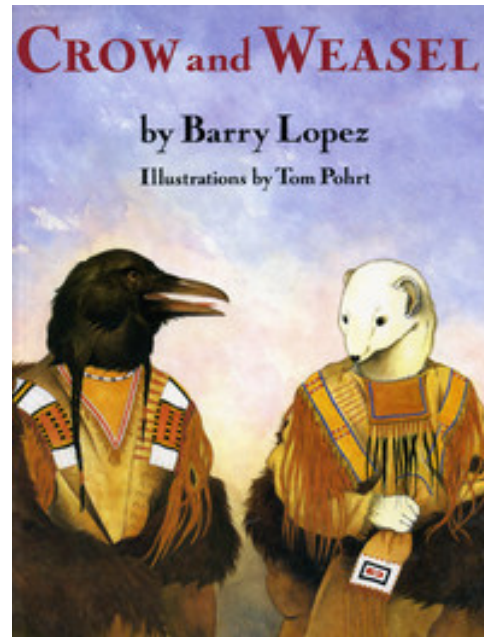
What we do know is that all people have 24 hours in a day and the same number of days in a year. How many years each person may have may partly depend on the story they have visualized for their life and the risks they place into it or were born with.



A healthy childhood helps one feel like a winner, and certainly provides a firm foundation for what follows in one's lifetime.



But how are healthy, fulfilling life stories created? What experiences and role models influence us the most? Why are stories so important? In *Crow and Weasel*, Badger says that stories have a way of taking care of people. We need to take care of stories and give them away when needed - sometimes stories are more important than food to stay alive.

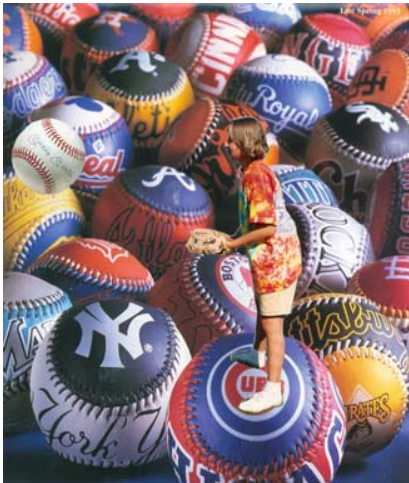


Back and forth processes between children and adults should be learned even at a time when words are not enough. With young children stories can be told non-verbally and experienced through the tones and sounds and emotional social processes encompassed in the use of various expressive arts and recreational activities such as:

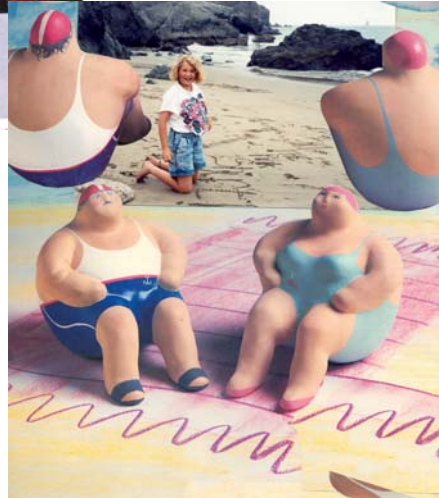
ART & DANCE



SPORTS

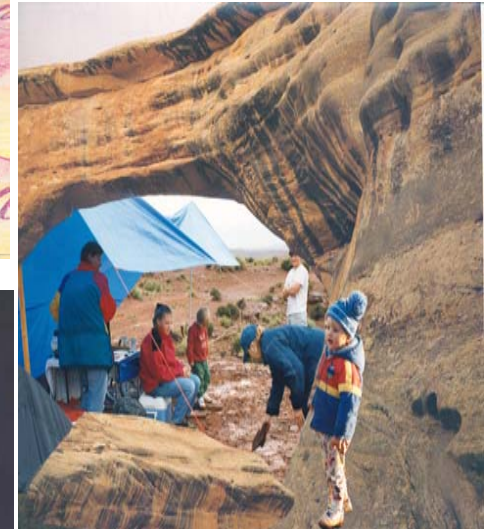


SCULPTURE



TRAVEL

CAMPING



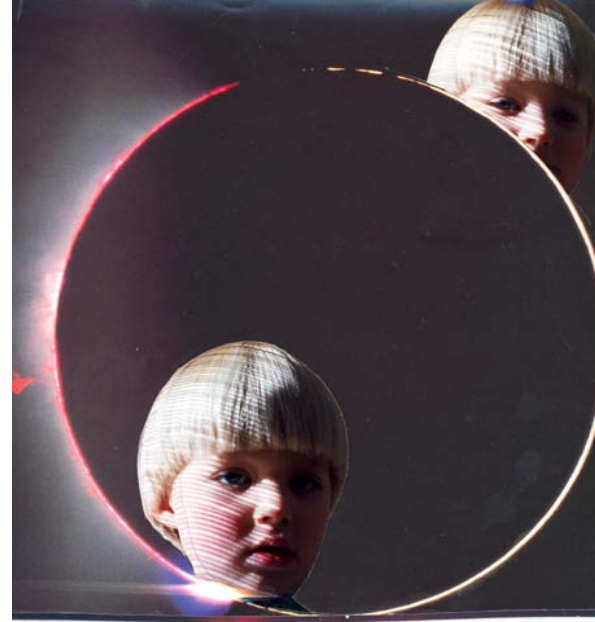
DRAMA



Sometimes people have to give their stories a new direction. Narrative practices have long shown symbolic stories can be used for symbolic healing and lead to improved outcomes and more resilient personal story lines. Where words are not enough, pictures sometimes suffice.



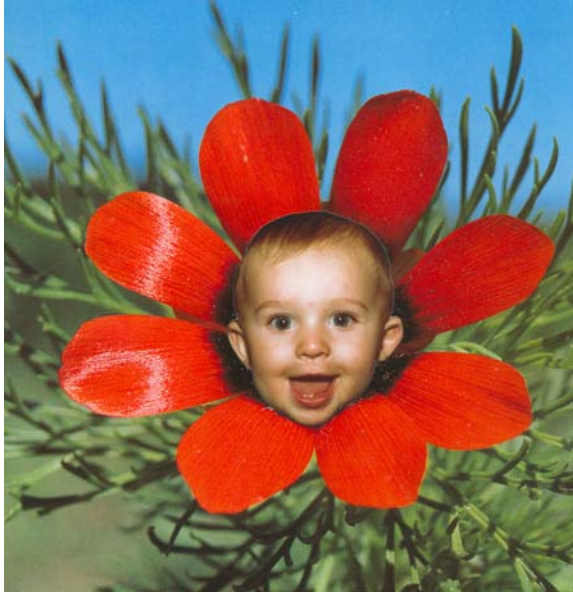
There are times when each of us wants to reassess our lives and certainly the developing lives of our children.



Reflecting on who a person really is can be unsettling, for you might find your life is like a metaphorical feast, or yet easily be in harms way.



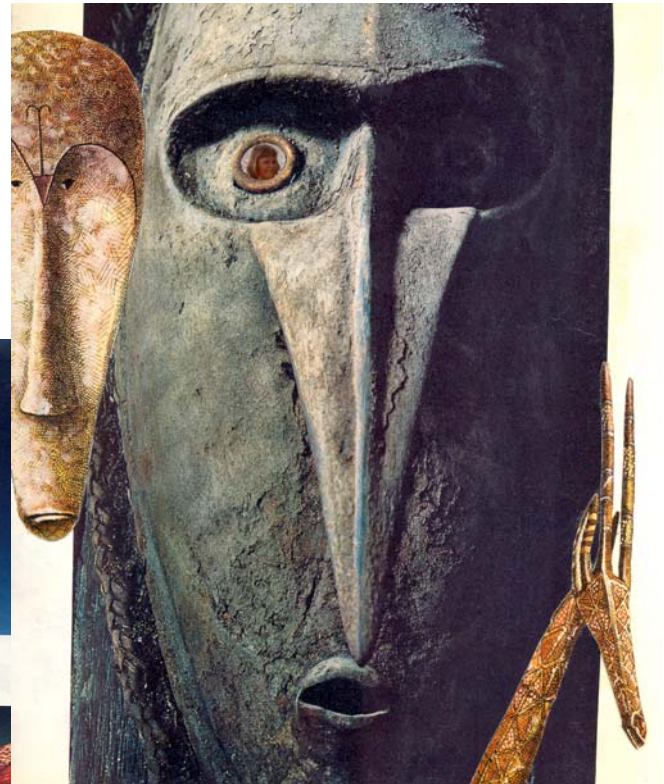
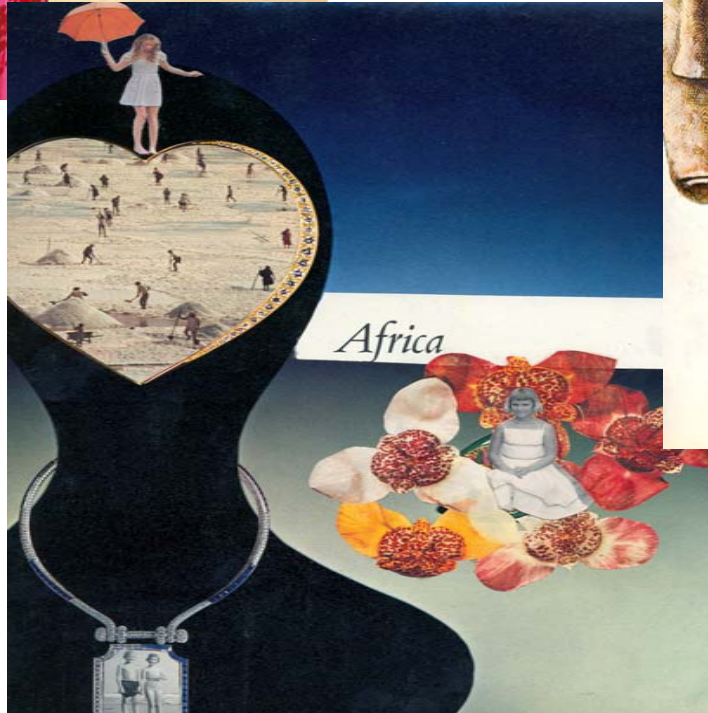
We ask if the images and life experiences of your childhood fill you with a youthful vigor and if not, what was lacking? What stories and experiences could have enriched your story?



The ABLE team feels that all individuals should have the opportunity to include as part of their stories having adequate family supports,



educational opportunities, cultural awareness



friends, and the sense that we belong and are a good fit.



Life should evolve into a wonderful story of transitions and growth. Personal stories are often influenced by other people's well traveled stories and their rich experiences. It is hoped each evolving personal story will be that of a road well traveled and a life faced head on.

